

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 15-26 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7-13, 15 and 16 are amended. Claim 14 is canceled, and claims 17-26 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 10 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 8 and 10 are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 9-12 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Itoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,406,246). Because Itoh fails to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Itoh discloses a tray handler which is substantially identical to the tray handler described in the background section of the present application. This tray handler lacks any elements which would correspond to the correcting means recited in independent claim 1.

As explained in the present application, a tray transferring apparatus as recited in claim 1 includes a correcting means installed on a mainframe and configured to correct a tilt angle of a fixed tray which is supported by the fixing means. One example of such a correcting means is shown in Fig. 3 of the present application. As shown therein, the correcting means 140 is mounted on the mainframe 110. The correcting means includes a compression spring which is configured to push a fixed tray mounted underneath the mainframe 110 away from the

mainframe and against the jaws of the first and second fixing units 120, 130. This ensures that a fixed tray held by first and second fixing units is not tilted at an odd angle.

The Office Action asserts that in the Itoh reference element 233 corresponds to a correcting means. However, element 233 is simply a linear guide which helps to guide movement of the tray handler upward and downward as propelled by the first fluid pressure cylinder 236. The linear guide provides no way to correct a tilt angle of a tray held by this device handler.

Because Itoh lacks the correcting means recited in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2 and 9-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features that they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Itoh is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-16 under 35 USC § 103(a) over Itoh, in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,354,792). As noted above, claims 14 has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of the claim is moot. Because Itoh and Kobayashi fail to disclose or suggest the features of the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Kobayashi reference is cited for the disclosure of an optical sensor. However, Kobayashi fails to cure the deficiencies of Itoh discussed above. Specifically, Kobayashi also fails to disclose or suggest a tray transferring apparatus which includes a correcting means as recited in claim 1.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional

features which are also not shown or suggested by Kobayashi or Itoh. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 USC § 103(a) over Oh (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,641), in view of Kobayashi. Because Oh and Kobayashi fail to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Oh reference discloses a gripper mechanism. This type of a gripper mechanism is intended to grasp and hold small electronic components such as a semiconductor chip. However, the gripper mechanism disclosed in Oh would not be capable of supporting a fixed tray with a fixing means or of gripping a main tray with a gripping means. Oh also fails to disclose any sort of correcting means which is configured to adjust or correct a tilt angle of a fixed tray supported by the fixing means. Kobayashi fails to cure these deficiencies of Oh.

Because Kobayashi and Oh fail to disclose or suggest the fixing means, correcting means and gripper means recited in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

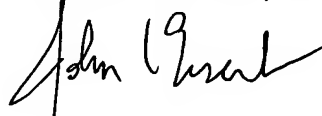
By this Amendment, claims 17-26 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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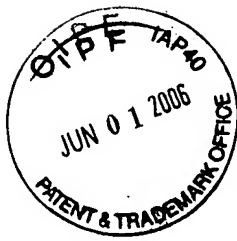


FIG. 2

